

Local Jails and Prescriber Enrollment Requirements

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

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With implementation of the Affordable Care Act, the Health Care Authority (HCA) - Medicaid can only use federal funds to pay for services that are ordered, prescribed, or referred by a health care professional that is enrolled as a Medicaid provider in the ProviderOne claims payment system.

Q. What is changing?

A. After August 1st, 2013, HCA will only pay for Medicaid client prescriptions or orders if they are written by prescribers enrolled with or “known” to HCA as a Medicaid Provider.

Q. How does this change affect the local jails?

A. In the case of a newly released inmate with a prescription written by a jail prescriber, if the released individual is eligible for Medicaid benefits, the prescriber will be required to be enrolled with or “known” to HCA in order for the prescription to be filled and paid by Medicaid.

Q. When the inmate is released why would the local jail be concerned with prescriptions written when released?

A. If the released inmate with the prescription has or becomes Medicaid eligible and the prescription was written by a non-Medicaid provider, HCA will not pay for the prescription. Some medications affect a person’s judgment, mental health status and related actions which can result in re-incarceration recidivism rates always important to jails and prisons.

Q. What actions do the jails need to take?

A. Jails need to ensure that the health care professionals with a jail, who have prescription writing authority and write prescriptions to go with an inmate on release, are enrolled with HCA as a Medicaid provider.

Q. How does a provider enroll if needed?

A. There are two options available to enroll as a Medicaid provider:

1. Nonbilling provider — for those health care professionals who will never need to bill Medicaid for payment of a service they render; or
2. Traditional Core Provider Agreement — for those who wish to receive payment from Medicaid for services rendered.
3. Details on how to enroll for both options can be found at the Provider Enrollment web page: <http://www.hca.wa.gov/medicaid/providerenroll/pages/enroll.aspx#provider>

Q. How long does it take the Agency to complete the enrollment process?

A. Provider Enrollment is prioritizing processing of these applications and once received if all necessary information is included and the provider passes a back ground check the application would be approved within 72 hours. However to ensure the enrollment process is completed prior to August 1st please have the applications submitted by July 12th.

Q. Is there a web site specifically for Jails that will help us navigate this new process?

A. No. ProviderOne system access is not needed in the case of health care professionals enrolling as a nonbilling provider using the Agreement for Nonbilling Individual Providers.

Q. Our jail system has many health care professionals, is there a simple way to enroll them?

A. For those jail systems with numerous prescribing health care professional employees, please contact Provider Enrollment at 800-562-3022 ext. 16137 for an option that may be available to streamline the enrollment process.

Q. One of our part-time health care professionals wants to become a full time Medicaid provider and receive payment directly for qualifying services. How do they enroll with Medicaid?

A. If the health care professional wants to bill Medicaid for services rendered in their private office practice, the process is available on the Provider Enrollment web page for new providers to enroll. If the person works at another clinic that sees Medicaid clients already, then the clinic can enroll that person.

Q. What is an NPI?

A. An National Provider Identifier (NPI) is a unique number used nationwide to identify eligible health care providers, clinics, and hospitals for use on claims and other electronic transmission of health information.

Q. We have a newly graduated health care professional that doesn't have an NPI yet. Where do they get their NPI number?

A. Individuals can request the free NPI through the federal National Plan and Provider Enumeration System (NPPES) at <https://nppes.cms.hhs.gov/NPPES/Welcome.do> . City, county and tribal jail systems and facilities would not be required by HCA to acquire a NPI (but all individuals enrolled with HCA by the jails will need to have an NPI).

Q. Our providers are already enrolled as Medicaid providers. Do we have to enroll them as nonbilling providers also?

A. No! If your providers are already enrolled as Medicaid providers no other action is required. If a provider is already enrolled a Medicaid provider and a nonbilling provider application is received, Provider Enrollment would contact the provider to verify which enrollment type is truly desired by the provider. A provider can only be a nonbilling provider or a billable provider but not both.

Q. Will we have to do new work with new inmates to enroll them upon intake?

A. No! This process has nothing to do with inmate enrollment into Medicaid. The change is specific to enrolling practitioners into Medicaid either under our traditional core provider agreement or as a nonbilling provider.

Q. The jail itself is not enrolled with Medicaid. How will we check inmate eligibility for Medicaid?

A. As long the client is incarcerated Medicaid would not be paying any claims for that inmate. When an inmate is released and is or becomes Medicaid eligible that is when the Medicaid medical benefits would become effective and why it is important for the prescriber to be enrolled with HCA in order for the prescription or orders to be filled.

Q. How would the jails that have a medical office or a jail health clinic bill Medicaid for the services provided?

A. Currently Medicaid does not pay for medical services for incarcerated clients — this has not changed. This policy is only being put into place to allow Medicaid to pay for services which are rendered past release but ordered, prescribed, or referred by the jail prescriber as part of their release.